

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03646 310556Z

15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 /032 W

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R 310530Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5859

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 16

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USDOC WASHDC

DEPT OF TREAS WASHDC

TRUST TERR OF PAC ISLAND LIAISON OFFICE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3646

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, ECIN, ECON, OCON, OTRA

SUBJECT: ASIAN PACIFIC COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
(APCAC) - JAKARTA CONFERENCE

REF: (A) JAKARTA 9737; (B) STATE 21342

1. SINGAPORE'S AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (ABC), APCAC'S NEWEST MEMBER, ON JULY 1 DEBATED APCAC SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO ESTABLISH AN APCAC-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP. A CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH AT THIS TIME BY APCAC TO ASEAN WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND THAT IT WAS, IN ANY
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EVENT, PREMATURE. INDEED, ABC BOARD (E/C COUNSELOR IS

GOVERNOR) IS OF OPINION THAT EVEN FORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL ASEAN COUNTRIES AND RESIDENT AMCHAMS WOULD BE PREMATURE. ABC CHAIRMAN ON JULY 12 COMMUNICATED THESE VIEWS TO E.W. BEEBY, APCAC PRESIDENT IN TOKYO AND TO AMCHAMS IN OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, ADDING THAT "WE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS ASEAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS WITH THE GOS INFORMALLY TO DETERMINE FIRST, WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE TRULY UNDERWAY AND SECOND, HOW THE GOS FEELS WE MAY BE OF HELP TO ASEAN IN BRINGING THESE PROJECTS TO FRUITION. THESE EFFORTS WILL BETTER ALLOW US TO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW MORE FORMAL APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE."

2. ABC'S REACTION TO FOREGOING APCAC PROPOSAL, MIRRORS ABC ATTITUDE TOWARD MOST OTHER ITEMS PROPOSED BY APCAC SECRETARIAT FOR OCTOBER MEETING. FEELING HERE IS THAT APCAC'S PRIMARY IF NOT SOLE FUNCTION SHOULD BE TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH COCUSA, ENSURING THAT VIEWS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION ARE FORCEFULLY AND ACCURATELY REPRESENTED TO POLICY MAKERS IN USG. EFFORT OF SECRETARIAT TO ARROGATE TO APCAC OTHER ACTIVITIES IS VIEWED WITH CONCERN BY ABC BOARD AS POTENTIALLY DETRACTING FROM THIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE189197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: I
Film Number: D760296-0222
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976071/aaaaaasu.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 JAKARTA 9737, 76 STATE 21342
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASIAN PACIFIC COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (APCAC) - JAKARTA CONFERENCE
TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, ECIN, ECON, OCON, OTRA, US, ID, APCAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006